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ABSTRACT

This report on sports and physical education in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) is based on visits made to that country, as well as personal interviews. Sports and physical education held a minor place in Russian society prior to 1917, but with the onset of communism, the fundamental credo became that sports and physical education were for the masses and not solely for the elite. Since 1917, sports and physical education have had a powerful organizational nucleus with the rights and priveleges of a ministry in the Soviet government. Although sports organizations or committees under the control of the Community party have changed names, they have basically remained the same as far as goals, administration, and organization. The functions of these committees are stated as being to (a) perfect the scientific system of bringing sports within the reach of the whole population, (b) build and operate sports facilities, (c) train coaches and instructors, (d) manufacture sports goods and equipment, (e) stage country-wide competitions, and (f) maintain international contacts and cooperate with other state agencies as well as the trade unions and Young Communist League organizations. The promotion and administration of sports is to be carried out by the party, government, trade unions, Young Communist League, and sports organizations. (Author/PB)

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Physical Education and Sport in the USSR: The Organizational Model

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The present study examines the organizational model for physical education and sport in the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The historical method of research was used; visitations were made to the USSR and personal interviews conducted with physical education teachers, administrators, coaches, and athletes, the author being fluent in Estonian, which is one of fifteen republics of the USSR. Primary source material was read as well as secondary source materials, and attempts have been made to validate the organizational model primarily by comprehensive interviews.

The past history of the organization of physical education and sport was examined as well as the present model. Prior to 1917, physical education and sport played a minor role in Russian society, were considered of minor importance, and, indeed the Russian people were not considered athletically inclined. However, it should be noted that many of the present-day Soviet republics were very advanced in their organization and participation in physical education and sport, although this was not the case in Tsarist Russia. However, since the Russian Revolution and the onset of Communism, the fundamental credo has been that sport and physical education are for the masses and not solely for the elite. Consequently it is only within the last fifty-five years that physical education and sport have achieved such magnitude and status in Soviet society. In the Soviet Union, a single term, physical culture, is used to refer to the total program, of which physical education is merely one aspect, and is concerned with those activities that

are part of the formal, regular school program. The other part of the program deals with those activities that encompass mass physical culture. These include physical activities for all citizens of the Soviet Union, competitive sports for the general populace and top-level sport for the exceptionally skilled athlete (1:1). Physical culture is considered essential for the communist education of youth as well as for the strengthening of the military potential of the country. Although this emphasis on military and para-military activities was essential during the formative years of the Soviet Union, it continues to exist and pervades the total physical culture movement. Similar to all aspects of life in the Soviet Union, the physical culture movement is controlled, fostered and directed by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (C.P.S.U.). Hence, the development of the program has essentially been related to the needs and desires of the Party. Indeed, as an early Party resolution stated:

> Physical culture should be seen not simply from the viewpoint of public health and physical education, not one aspect of the cultural, economic and military training of young people, not simply as a means of socialising the masses....but as a means of rallying the great mass of workers and peasants to the various Party, Soviet and trade-union organizations, through which they can be drawn into social and political activity (12:42-43).

Physical education is considered an integral part of the total communist education of children. As Marx maintained, total education involves the combination of intellectual, physical and technical education (10:112) so as to develop all-round citizens ready to work and defend their land. Physical education, as with education in general, is highly organized.

The responsibility of policy-making and curriculum formulation for elementary and secondary schools lies with the Department of Physical Education in the All-Union Ministry of Education, and for higher and secondary specialized schools with the Department of Physical Education in the All-Union Ministry of Higher and Specialized Education. Although each of the fifteen republics has separate and supposedly autonomous ministries of education, in actuality, the ministries of the Russian SFSR, together with the Russian Academy of Pedagogic Science, has effected the administration of the school program in all of the republics. Thus the physical education curriculum, as with all other subject curriculums, is in theory, uniform throughout the Soviet Union. Indeed, the pattern which is promulgated is according to the policy of the Council of Ministries of the USSR and the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. (4:43).

The physical education programs in the schools teach the child the basic fundamental skills of physical activities while individual abilities and interests are developed in the sport societies, clubs and sport schools. The "vnelassnaya rabota" (out-of-school hours activity) and "vneskolnaya rabota" (extrascholastic activities) are considered an integral part of the total character-training of Soviet youth and cover such interest areas as labor and technology, science, arts and physical culture. These after-school organizations are organized in close cooperation with the school, the state and the community (8:132). The most popular of these organizations are the Pioneer Palaces which are found in almost each city and

are staffed with trained teachers. Whereas the primary emphasis is on cultural pursuits at these Palaces, among the wide variety of offerings there are numerous sporting activities.

Sport schools have been formed by the ministries of education in cooperation with the voluntary sport societies throughout the fifteen republics in order to provide athletic training for the physically gifted athletes. At these schools, two to five days a week, children receive excellent instruction, free, from specialized coaches and are able to train on good equipment and in excellent facilities. The children's sport school is for children aged seven to seventeen. Those who rank in the first three sport categories for the particular age group, and who are between the ages of seventeen and twenty-six, can be admitted to a youth sport school. These sports schools are found on the city, district, regional and republic levels, with the best athletes going to the all-union national schools.

Professional preparation of physical education teachers and sports coaches and leaders is varied and occurs at the separate Physical Culture Institutes, at the Departments of Physical Culture in teacher training colleges, at the Specialized Schools of Physical Culture and Specialized Schools for coaches. These institutes are duplicated, with similar curriculums, in each of the fifteen republics. Entry into higher educational institutes, that is the Physical Culture Institutes and the Departments of Physical Culture at universities, is determined through strict admission requirements. Students applying for admission must not only possess a complete secondary school diploma and be between the ages of seventeen

and thirty-five, but must hold the Second Level GTO, must pass a medical examination and tests in various sports activities, and attain a minimum prescribed standard in Russian Literature, physics and chemistry. There are three types of students attending, namely full-time day, work-study, and correspondence students. The course of study for the full-time students is four years, while for the other two groups it is five or more years to complete the prescribed program. Upon completion, the degree for "Theory and Method of Physical Education and Sport Training" in the area of Pedagogical Sciences is granted (9:9). With regard to graduate work, the four main centers of scientific research in physical culture are located in Moscow, Leningrad, Tartu in the Estonian SSR and Tbilisi in the Georgian SSR. Each of these institutions comes under the jurisdiction of the Central Presidium of the Soviet Union Government, with the Moscow Institute directing the work of all four institutions.

Sport in the USSR is distinct from physical education, but it is seen as playing an important role in the development of the "new Soviet man" who is to be physically and morally trained in Communist ideals (10:11). After the 1917 Revolution, the main emphasis in sport was to be on physically preparing the population for defence and laboring for the socialist state. Moreover, it was believed that participation in sport had to be made available for all citizens and was not to be restricted to the elite, as it had been during the Tsarist regimes or was supposedly in the capitalist world (12:9).

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union assigned to the sport organizations, after the Second World War, the task of raising the level of sport mastery and emphasizing those sports with which Soviet athletes would rise to dominance in world and international competition (12:9).

Throughout the history of the Soviet Union, sport has had a powerful organizational nucleus in the government with the rights and privileges of a ministry (6:49). Although in January, 1959, the Union of Sports Societies and Organizations (USSO) was formed as an independent "public" organization, it remained under the control of the Communist Party. The Obvious similarity in the organization of the USSO and that of the organization of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union demonstrated that the change in administration had been that of name only (10:117). Each of the republics was to follow a similar model for organizing their sport societies and organizations.

However, in August, 1966, according to the directives of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the USSR Council of Ministers, the USSO was disbanded and in its place the Physical Culture and Sports Committee at the Councils of Ministers of the USSR, with subordinate committees in the republics, regions, towns and districts, was set up (5:14). Again, it appears that the only actual change was that in the name of the organization. The functions of the committees were stated as being to perfect the scientific system of bringing sport within the reach of the whole population, to build and operate sport facilities, to train coaches and

instructors, to manufacture sport goods and equipment, to stage country-wide competitions, to maintain international contacts and cooperate with other state agencies as well as the trade unions and the Young Communist League organizations (5:14). The promotion and administration of sport was to be carried out by the Party, the government, the trade unions, the Young Communist League and the sport organization.

The first step in the organization of the Soviet sport program is the "kollektiv" and as far as the average person is concerned this is the focal point of the whole sport system. In 1967, there were 201,876 physical culture kollektivs with 50,528,200 members (2:612). These kollektivs are formed in factories, offices, collective and state farms, various enterprises and at schools and high education institutions so that people are athletically organized at their place of work, study or residence (10:19). A nominal fee of approximately 30 kopecks (about 32 cents) is charged to membership per year, but the instruction provided and the use of the facilities are free. Each of the kollektivs belongs to one of thirty-six voluntary sport societies, with the most popular being Spartak (Producer's Co-operative), Dynamo (Security Police), Burevestnik (University Students), Locomotiv (Transportation Workers) and Trud (Labor) (13:29). These societies are based on the work, or professional affiliation of the individual, and these have branches in all fifteen republics. Also, each of the republics has its own republic sport society, such as the Urozhai in the Russian Federation, Kolgospnik in the Ukraine, Pakhtakor in Uzbekistan and Kalev in Estonia. Outside of this framework is the TSSKA, the

Central Army Sports Club (11:43). Each society has its own sport schools and summer camps. Moreover, each society has, for every sport that is practiced, local, regional, republic and all-union championships. By 1970, approximately 44,000,000 Soviet citizens were taking part in the programs run by the sport societies (5:7).

The financing of this gigantic system of sport societies and their activities is borne by the state and trade unions, which allocate considerable sums to build stadia, manufacture equipment, organize competitions and maintain staffs of coaches, instructors and other personnel. The exact amount spent has not been made public by the Soviet authorities, however, it has noted that the government has spent 2.2 (7:387), and as high as 7.6 (3:316) billion rubles annually to support sport and public health.

The two underlying principles of the sport movement are "massovost" which is mass participation and "masterstvo" which is proficiency and achievement. The Soviets are firm believers in the "triangle theory," in that the larger the base of mass participation the more logical that outstanding performers will emerge at the top of the triangle. The physical culture kollektivs make up the base of the triangle, while the national sports school is at the apex. Mass demonstrations, excursions, marches, festivals and competitions are held at regular intervals, and the national award schemes are encouraged to provide a mass physical culture base. All of these events emphasize the idea of belonging and of being part of a healthy, communist society. Moreover, the inherent

qualities of sport are recognized by the Party as furthering non-sport objectives even though sport in itself is, in reality, politically neutral.

Centrally organized systems of physical fitness awards and sports proficiency underlie the Soviet sport program and are an integral and essential part of the triangle theory to emphasize mass participation. The "Gotov-K-Trudu-Oboronie" (GTO) or Ready for Labor and Defense, physical fitness program was inaugurated as a national program in 1931 by the Komsomol organization, and it emphasized a para-military base with the items testing strength, endurance, courage, agility, general military ability and physical fitness. Recently a new set of standards was introduced as many of these adopted in the 1930's were considered outmoded; however, activities such as grenade throwing, use of gas masks, and basic civil defense knowledge have been maintained. This new system was drafted by the Physical Culture and Sports Committee, the Central Council of Trade Unions and the Central Committee of the Young Communist League, and was then approved by the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. and the Council of Ministers of the USSR (14:3). Under this new system there were to be five stages for separate age groups between ten and sixty, with the first three being tied in to the school physical education program. Each stage has a distinctive name and emblem with specific norms for the particular age groups.

The All-Union Sports Classification System, in which awards are given for excellence in a particular sport, is the

other important facet of the Soviet sport program. The standards are set nationally in each of the individual sports practiced in the USSR, and they are intended to encourage athletes to attempt to achieve excellence in a specific sport. The categories of achievement become progressively more difficult and more prestigious as they proceed from Class C, through Class B, to Class A, then to Master of Sport and finally Honored Master of Sport. The two systems, the GTO, and the All-Union Sports Classification have stimulated and increased interest in athletic participation and attainments.

The basic model of physical culture in the Soviet Union is one of strong control at the national all-union level with definite guiding principles in the development and promulgation of the program. The program operates with the financial support of the government. An essential part of the model is that each republic, district, city and region duplicates this model, and the programs are similar throughout the country. Part of the total model is the triangle theory which is the basis of the sport program. The foundation, or base of the triangle, is mass participation in the individual physical kollektivs. Each level of the triangle, the city level, the district level and the republic level is deemed important and essential in the ultimate development of outstanding athletes. In the main it can be safely asserted that the result has been a massive, centrally organized and controlled program that has captured the enthusiasm of the Soviet people and has made the Soviet Union a major sport "power" in the world.

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FIGURE 1

STRUCTURE OF THE SOVIET PHYSICAL CULTURE MOVEMENT

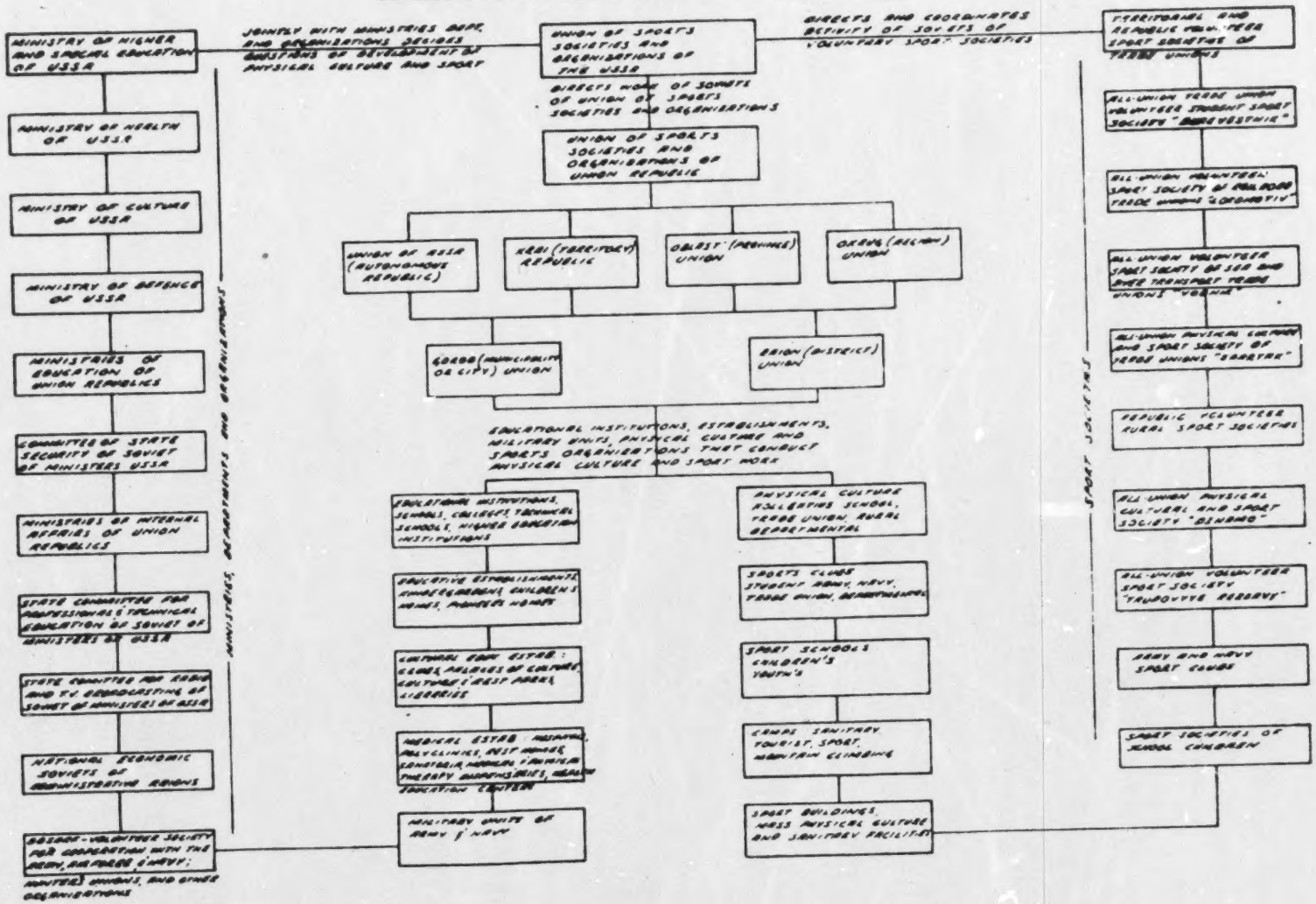
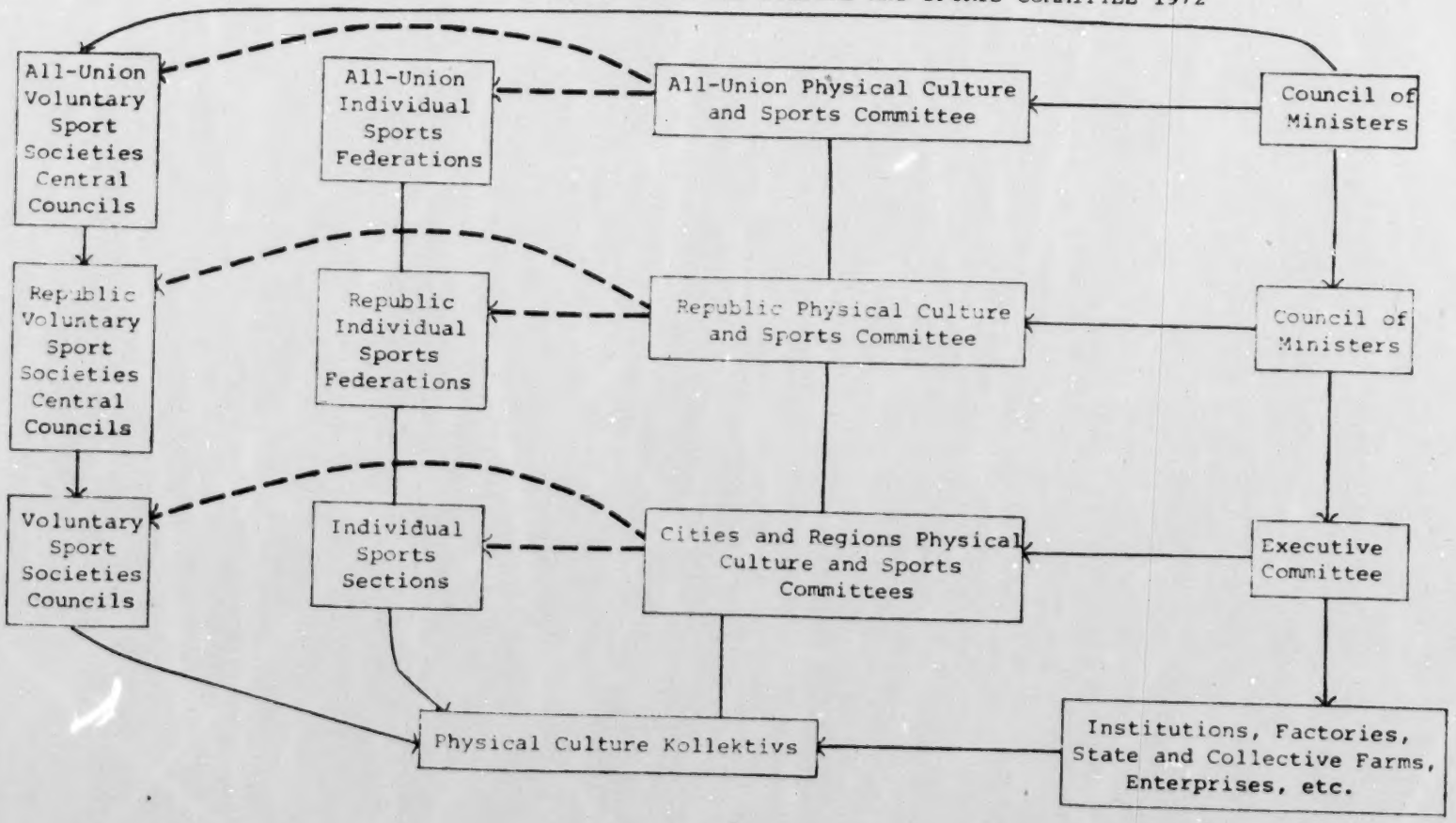

MINISTRY OF HIGHER AND SPECIAL EDUCATION OF USSR
MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF USSR
MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF USSR
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF USSR
MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION OF UNION REPUBLICS
COMMITTEE OF STATE SECURITY OF SOVIET OF MINISTERS USSR
MINISTRIES OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF UNION REPUBLICS
STATE COMMITTEE FOR PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF SOVIET OF MINISTERS OF USSR
STATE COMMITTEE FOR RADIO AND TV BROADCASTING OF SOVIET OF MINISTERS OF USSR
NATIONAL ECONOMIC SOVIETS OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS
DOSAAF - VOLUNTEER SOCIETY FOR COOPERATION WITH THE ARMY, AIR FORCES & NAVY; HUNTERS' UNIONS, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
JOINTLY WITH MINISTRIES DEPT. AND ORGANIZATIONS SECURES CONDITIONS OF DEVELOPMENT OF PHYSICAL CULTURE AND SPORT
SUPERINTENDENCE AND STIMULATION OF ACTIVITIES
UNION OF SPORTS SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE USSR
DIRECTS AND COORDINATES ACTIVITY OF SOVIETS OF VOLUNTARY SPORT SOCIETIES
DIRECTS WORK OF SOVIETS OF UNION OF SPORTS SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS
UNION OF SPORTS SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF UNION REPUBLIC
UNION OF ASSR (AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC)
KRAI (TERRITORY) REPUBLIC
OBLAST' (PROVINCE) UNION
OKRUG (REGION) UNION
GORSOVET (MUNICIPALITY OR CITY) UNION
RAION (DISTRICT) UNION
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, ESTABLISHMENTS, MILITARY UNITS, PHYSICAL CULTURE AND SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS THAT CONDUCT PHYSICAL CULTURE AND SPORT WORK
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
EDUCATIVE ESTABLISHMENTS, KINDERGARTENS, CHILDREN'S HOMES, PIONEER HOMES
CULTURAL EDUCATIVE ESTAB.: CLUBS, PALACES OF CULTURE, CULTURAL & REST PARKS, LIBRARIES
MEDICAL ESTAB. INSTITUTES, POLYCLINICS, POST HOMES, SANATORIA, MATERNITY HOMES, THERAPY SANATORIUMS, HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS
MILITARY UNITS OF ARMY & NAVY
PHYSICAL CULTURE COLLECTIVES SCHOOL, TRADE UNION, RURAL DEPARTMENTAL
SPORTS CLUBS STUDENT ARMY, NAVY, TRADE UNION, DEPARTMENTAL
SPORT SCHOOLS CHILDREN'S YOUTH'S
CRUDS SANITARY TOURIST, SPORT, MOUNTAIN CLIMBING
SPORT BUILDINGS, MASS PHYSICAL CULTURE AND SANITARY FACILITIES
SPORT SOCIETIES
TERRITORIAL AND REPUBLIC TRADE UNIONS SPORT SOCIETIES OF TRADE UNIONS
ALL-UNION TRADE UNION VOLUNTEER STUDENT SPORT SOCIETY "BURE VESTNIK"
ALL-UNION VOLUNTEER SPORT SOCIETY OF RAILROAD TRADE UNIONS "LOKOMOTIV"
ALL-UNION VOLUNTEER SPORT SOCIETY OF SEA AND RIVER TRANSPORT TRADE UNIONS "VOLNA"
ALL-UNION INVALIDS CULTURAL AND SPORT SOCIETY OF TRADE UNIONS "SOZVEZDIE"
REPUBLIC VOLUNTEER RURAL SPORT SOCIETIES
ALL-UNION PHYSICAL CULTURAL AND SPORT SOCIETY "BURNAYA"
ALL-UNION VOLUNTEER SPORT SOCIETY "TRUDOVYE REZERVY"
ARMY AND NAVY SPORT CLUBS
SPORT SOCIETIES OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

FIGURE 2

STRUCTURE OF THE ALL-UNION PHYSICAL CULTURE AND SPORTS COMMITTEE 1972


All-Union Voluntary Sport Societies Central Councils
All-Union Individual Sports Federations
All-Union Physical Culture and Sports Committee
Council of Ministers
Republic Voluntary Sport Societies Central Councils
Republic Individual Sports Federations
Republic Physical Culture and Sports Committee
Council of Ministers
Voluntary Sport Societies Councils
Individual Sports Sections
Cities and Regions Physical Culture and Sports Committees
Executive Committee
Physical Culture Kollektivs
Institutions, Factories, State and Collective Farms, Enterprises, etc.

videotape feedback as a motivator lies in the fact that students tend to be overly conscious of form; thereby, sacrificing distance. An additional disadvantage is the possibility of a school system lacking videotape equipment or lacking available personnel to operate the equipment.

The two motivational techniques investigated in this study can be used with some reservation in standing broad jump performances. The monetary reward, because of its impracticality, may not be as feasible an another technique. The videotape feedback seems to be better suited to use as an instructional tool. Its availability to the teacher may dictate its overall usefulness